favours being given to foreign oil companies;

(c) the number of vessels which fly the Indian flag are lying un-utilised; and

(d) what steps are being taken to induce a more prudent tone in ONGC transactions?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Charter hiring of rigs by ONGC has been done after foreign exchange release was cleared by the Government. Government takes all precautions to ensure that no favour is shown to anyone.

(c) As far as rigs are concerned one Indian owned jack up rig which is undergoing repairs is reported by ONGC to be unutilized.

(d) Procurement of materials and services in ONGC is already done through competitive bidding.

Exploration of Oil and Gas in Rajasthan

294. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whehter any plan has been drawn up to explore deeply the desert sands of Rajasthan in quest for striking more oil and gas of commerical quantity and quality;

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) the outcome of the exploratory efforts made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) During the 8th Plan (1992—97) ONGC and Oil India Limited have planned to carry out a total of 9000 SLK and 2550 GLK of 2D and 300 Sq. Kms. of 3D seismic surveys and 1,20,650 Meteres of exploratory drilling in Rajasthan.

(c) ONGC has discovered gas in Rajasthan at 5 places viz. Bhakri Tibba, Bankia, Ghotaru, Khartar and Manhera Tibba. OIL has discovered gas at Tanot, Ramgarh. Dandewala and Jalalwala in Jaisalmer basin and heavy oil at Baghewala and Tavriwala in Bikaner—Nagaur basin.

Shortage of Petroleum Products in Madhya Pradesh

295. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many parts of Madhya Pradesh are facing acute shortage of petrol and petroleum products since February this year;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that oil companies are not supplying requisite quantity of petrol and petroleum products to Madhya Pradesh;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what remedial action Government have taken or propose to take to make petroleum products easily available in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e) Occasional shortage of petroleum products were experienced in certain areas of Madhya Pradesh such as Indore, Ratlam, Gwalior, Nishadpura etc. due to two railway accidents, partial shortage of tank wagons and inadequate availablity of tank lorries for transportation by road. All possible efforts are made to remedy the situation whenever any shortages occur in any area.

Additional Gas Cylinder

296. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Press reports appearing in various newspapers in Madhya Pradesh wherein it has been alleged that LPG dealers in Madhya

Pradesh particularly in Indode and adjoining areas are charging money from the consumers for providing them additional gas cylinder ;

(b) whether Government are also aware that LPG consumers who want an additional cylinder but do not wish to pay money to the dealers are harassed by the dealers on one pretext or the other ;

(c) whether Government have received any complaints from the consumers in this regard ;

(d) if so, the number of complaints received during the last one year ; and

(e) what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) One of the oil companies has reported the appearance of such a news item in 'Dainik Dopahar'.

(c) Oil companies have reported that they have not received any complaints against any LPG distributor in this connection.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

कोरियाई कम्पनियों द्वारा तेल का उत्पादन

297. श्री शिवाजीराव रामराव पाटिल : क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने मुम्बई के समीप के उन चारों स्थानों को तेल के उत्पादन के लिए कोरियाई कम्पनियों को सौंपने का निर्णय किया है जहां तेल का भंडार पाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) अन्य तेल क्षेत्र कौन-कौन से हैं जिन्हें विदेशी कम्पनियों को सौंपने के लिए बातचीत चल रही है; और

(घ) ये कम्पनियां कब तक उत्पादन शुरू कर देंगी ?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) बोली के चौथे दौर में कावेरी अपतट क्षेत्र में पता लगाए गए एक तेल क्षेत्र की पेशकश की गई है। इस ब्लाक के लिए ठेके पर बोलीदाताओं से वार्ता करने के पश्चात हस्ताक्षर किए जाएंगे।

Supply of Compressors for Bombay High

298. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that for Gas Flaring Project, Bomaby High, ONGC have placed an order for compressors :

(b) if so, the name of the company and the amount of the order in rupees and in foreign currency ;

(c) the number of bidders who had quoted for the above tender and what was the final price offered by the next higher bidder ;

(d) wheter KHI has confirmed the acceptance of the order without asking for any kind of addltional facilities including exposure fees ; and

(e) if not, what are the details of additional facilities asked for by KHI and to what extent it make its bid higher than that of IHI ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) ONGC had placed a conditional Letter of Intent subject to supliers' credit on a consortium of M/s KHI, Japan and M/s Cooper Rolls Inc., USA for 7 Gas Compressor packages for JY 14,689,580,400 plus US$ 53,171,110 plus UK £ 22,678,100 equivalent up to 540.30 crores at the exchange rate prevailing on date of price bid opening.